

Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.111  
Art Unit 3738  
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Application No. 09/721,881

### In the Specification

At page 6, Lines 6-14, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

1, In one aspect, the present invention provides a radially expandable stent that includes a wire having a hydrogel coating layer thereon. Preferably the coating layer is substantially uniform. More preferably the stent has a hydrogel coating layer with an average dry coating thickness ( $T$ ) of about 0.1 micrometer to about 25 micrometers, a standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ), and a relative standard deviation ( $100 \times \sigma / T$ ) of no greater than about 10 percent. The hydrogel coating layer may optionally include a biologically active agent. The coating layer preferably provides a hydrophilic, biocompatible surface.

At page 12, lines 19-25, please replace the existing paragraph with the following paragraph:

2 Preferably the coating and drying methods are selected so as to provide a coating with a substantially uniform thickness as measured by the standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ). Preferably for a coating of dry thickness  $T$ , the relative standard deviation ( $100 \times \sigma / T$ ) is no greater than about 10 percent.